



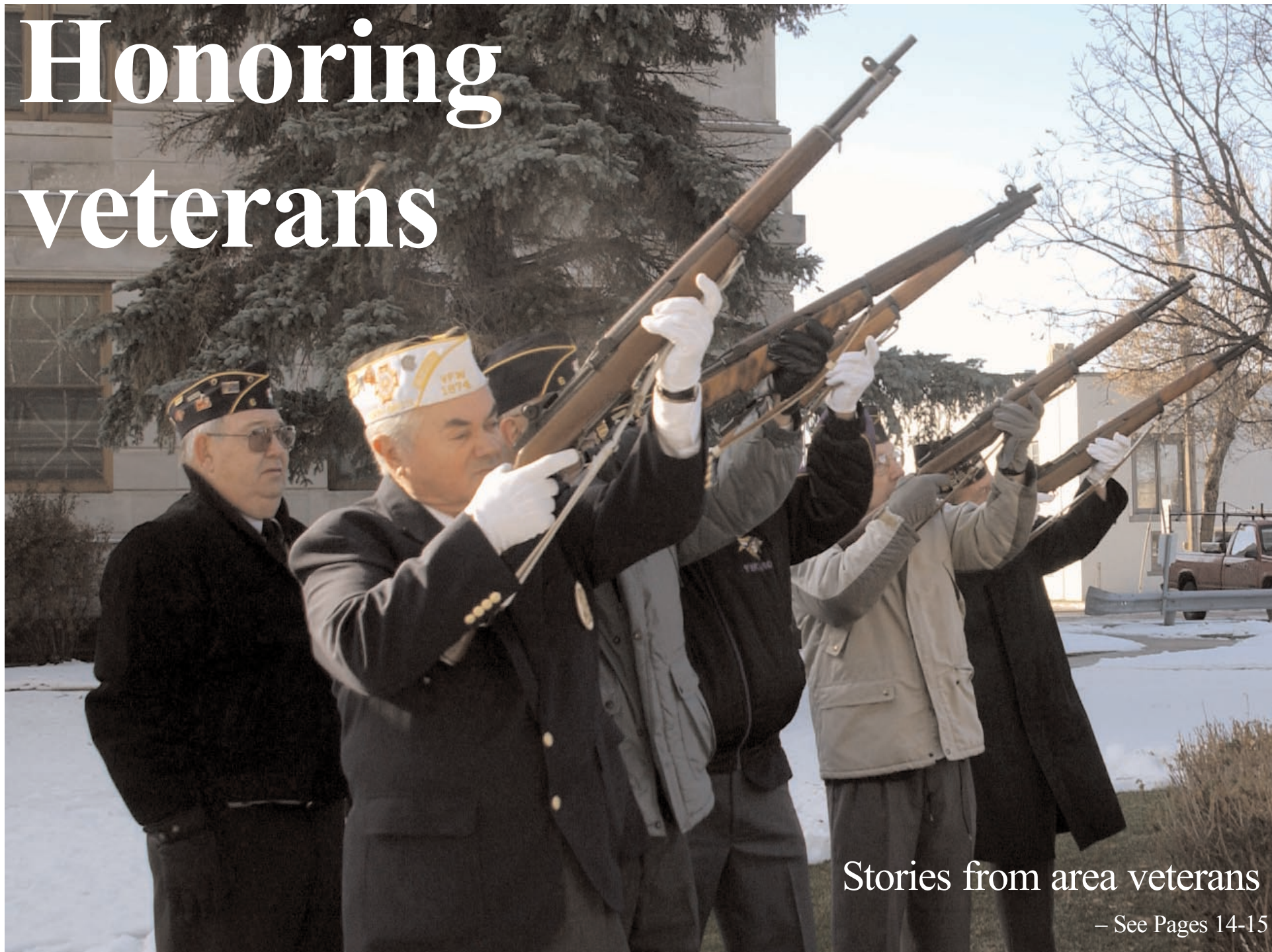
THE LEADER

Vol. 38, No. 45

Grand Forks Air Force Base, N.D. ♦ www.grandforks.af.mil

Nov. 14, 2003

Honoring veterans



Stories from area veterans

— See Pages 14-15

319th Air Refueling Wing ♦ Winners of the Air Force Outstanding Unit Award (July 2000 to June 2002)

Inside: It's that time again

Weekend weather

Today	39/21	Partly Cloudy
Saturday	34/21	Partly Cloudy
Sunday	38/26	Mostly Cloudy
Monday	41/26	Mixed Prec.



Weather information courtesy
319th Operations Support Squadron weather flight

Page 4



Fallen heroes

Page 10



Progress starting to show

Pages 11-12



Fixing, maintaining morale with three C's

By Lt. Col. Patrick Fogarty
319th Civil Engineer Squadron commander

What are the factors that lead to good morale? Where should you focus to isolate the reasons for low morale? How do you improve morale?

The three C's of Morale – competence, contribution and connection – can help you analyze and improve your morale and hopefully those you supervise.

Competence is the cornerstone of good morale. There is very high correlation between our ability to perform our jobs well and high morale.

On the contrary, if we feel unqualified or unskilled in a job with tasks we cannot perform, there is a very good chance our morale will be low. Therefore, our training programs are so very important to our success and the success of our organizations.

The Air Force spends billions each year to train us to fly and fight and perform our daily tasks. If you think competence could be the culprit in your attitude at work, talk to your boss about how to improve your understanding of the tasks your section performs. Competence is a factor we have a lot of control over. Focus on it, and your job satisfaction can improve.

Contribution to the team effort is the second aspect of morale. Each of us needs to know the work we do contributes to the greater good of the team, mission or society at large.

How many times have you asked yourself why you were doing something that you felt was “busy work” or you thought had little impact. Those feelings can cause your morale

to sink. But, when we work on a project or task where we know we were integral to the success of an important sortie, or fixing someone's difficult pay or personnel problem, our morale has the potential to soar.

The last aspect is connection. Most of us feel a high level of connection in the military, which is a feeling we are connected to something much larger than ourselves.

Many of us feel our highest sense of connection when we are part of a great team. The size of the team is not as important as the bonds within that team.

The opposite feeling is isolation – feeling set apart or ostracized from the group. When you look back at your most memorable assignment, there is a high probability you were part of a great group of folks who you felt strong feelings of connection. Work on the cohesion of your team, and your own morale will improve.

As an individual, the next time you look at your own morale, ask yourself how your three C's are stacking up. Use the them to analyze your situation or feelings so you can develop your “get well” plan along with your supervisor. Ask your supervisor to explain tasks you don't understand (competence), for more important and challenging jobs (contribution), and how you can do your part to improve the teamwork in your section (connection).

As a supervisor, whether of a section in Finance, the MPF, or on the flightline, you can develop a supercharged team if you help provide your people with top-notch training, an understanding of how they contribute to the greater mission, and improved feelings of connection to each other and the rest of their unit.

Action Line 747-4522

The Action Line is your avenue for information about events and activities on and around the base.

For questions about current events or rumors, please leave a message. Questions will be answered in the order they are received.



Col. Mark Ramsay
319th Air Refueling Wing commander

Town Hall meeting answer

Q: Why isn't anything being done to resolve the issue of neighbors' dogs who continuously bark loudly, even during curfew? If a family wants to spend time in their backyard, they feel they can't due to this.

A: The well-being of a community housing area depends on the cooperation and consideration of all the residents. All pet complaints should be forwarded to Security Forces in accordance with GFAFB 31-105 Control of Pets and Stray Animals.

Response to noise complaints:
► Every noise complaint

received by SF is responded to
► If there is a problem with a neighbor's dog barking, you should first talk to that neighbor and try to resolve the issue
► If the problem persists, call the Security Forces Control Center at 747-5351 and a police unit will respond. They will brief the residents on policies of controlling one's pets, annotate the incident in the police blotter, and track incidents by housing and security administration (this process is currently being refined)
► If the residents fail to control their pet and complaints are continually called in by neighbors, the resident can be ordered to remove the pet from base.

4

DWI-free days

100%

Mission effectiveness rating



Photo by Staff Sgt. Lisa Lumives

Cover photo

Members of the Grand Forks chapter of the Veterans of Foreign Wars offer up a salute on Veterans Day at the Grand Forks County Courthouse. Col. Mark Ramsay, 319th Air Refueling Wing commander, was the guest speaker at the event.

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Practice safety when using turkey fryers

By Staff Sgt. Javier Calvillo

319th Civil Engineer Squadron, fire inspector

Growing up in California, my family and I looked forward to having turkey at our Thanksgiving Day celebration. As hard as my aunt tried, the big old bird usually ended up rather dry.

Then, two years ago, a friend invited me over for my first deep-fried turkey. Man, was it good! I never tasted such a moist, delicious turkey in my life. And to top it all off, it took us about 20 minutes to cook it.

As you might imagine, there are some risks associated with cooking such a large object with extremely hot oil. Because of the relatively short period of time that these cookers have been on the market, many folks aren't aware of how to use them safely.

Unfortunately, there has been an increase in cooking fires, due directly to turkey fryers.

"We're worried by the increasing reports of fires related with turkey fryer use," said Mr. John Drengenberg, Underwriter Laboratories consumer affairs manager. "Based on our test findings, the fryers used to

produce those great-tasting birds are not worth the risks. And, as a result of these tests, UL has decided not to certify any turkey fryers with our trusted UL mark."

These are reasons why using a deep-fryer can be dangerous:

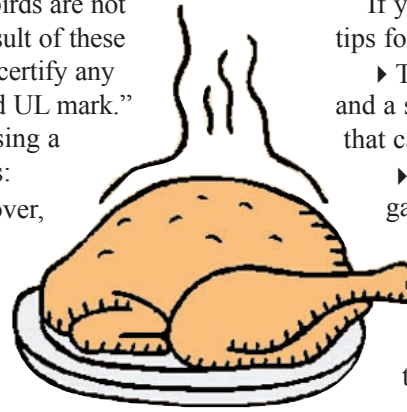
- ▶ Many units easily tip over, spilling the five gallons of hot oil within the cooking pot.

- ▶ If the cooking pot is overfilled with oil, the oil may spill out of the unit when the turkey is placed into the cooking pot. Oil may then hit the burner or flames causing a fire to engulf the entire unit.

- ▶ Partially frozen turkeys placed into the fryer can cause a spill-over effect. This may result in fire.

- ▶ With no thermostat controls, the units also have the potential to overheat the oil to the point of combustion.

- ▶ The sides of the cooking pot, lid and pot handles get dangerously hot, posing severe burn hazards.



If you absolutely must use a turkey fryer, these are tips for safer use:

- ▶ Turkey fryers should always be used outdoors and a safe distance from buildings and any material that can burn.

- ▶ Never use turkey fryers on wooden decks or in garages.

- ▶ Make sure the fryers are used on a flat surface to reduce accidental tipping.

- ▶ Never leave the fryer unattended.

- ▶ Never allow children or pets near the turkey fryer.

- ▶ Make sure the turkey is completely thawed and be careful with marinades.

Oil and water don't mix, and water causes oil to spill over, causing a fire.

- ▶ The National Turkey Federation recommends refrigerator thawing and to allow approximately 24 hours for every five pounds of bird thawed in the refrigerator.

- ▶ Keep an all-purpose fire extinguisher nearby. For details, call at 747-4442.

Flu season means shot time

Base received sufficient quantity to cover entire beneficiary population

By Mrs. Sarah Bloch
Public affairs

Since flu season has already arrived, and the 319th Aeromedical-Dental Squadron wants to keep us all healthy, they recommend that everyone come get flu shots as soon as possible.

There were mass influenza shot lines held at Liberty Square Wednesday and Thursday, and there will be more today from 9 to 11 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m. It is open to everyone on base, including Air Force active duty, Activated Guard and Reservists, Civilian employees, and all retirees.

For active military members, it is mandatory to receive annual flu shots, and it is necessary for them to bring their shot records with them. Some squadrons have held squadron-wide influenza shot lines and have met the mandated requirements. For all others who aren't military members, getting a flu shot is highly encouraged, and it is necessary to bring a civilian form of identification with them.

If someone is unable to attend during these times, base community members can just walk into the base clinic any time from now until June 30 during the Clinic's normal hours of operation. However, October through December is the prime time to get flu shots, so it is highly recommended that everyone get them during these months.

The purpose for getting flu shots is to protect oneself from getting the flu virus and from spreading it to others. A simple shot of the serum will leave one with a sore arm at the most, whereas getting the flu virus will leave one with symptoms as seen below from the WebMD Web site, or worse, it could lead to pneumonia which could lead to death.

Thus, it is a serious matter to guard against this disease. The symptoms of influenza appear suddenly and often include:

- ▶ Fever of 100 to 104 degrees Fahrenheit, which can reach 106 degrees when symptoms first develop.

Fever is usually continuous, but may come and go, and it may be lower in older adults than in children. When it is high, other symptoms are usually more severe.

- ▶ Shaking chills
- ▶ Body aches and muscle pain (often severe), commonly in the back, arms or legs
- ▶ Headache
- ▶ Pain when you move your eyes
- ▶ Fatigue, a general feeling of sickness and loss of appetite

- ▶ A dry cough, runny nose, and dry or sore throat. You may not notice these during the first few days of the illness when other symptoms are more severe.

As fever goes away, these symptoms usually become more evident.

Since the vaccine they received recently came in sufficient quantities, they are able to cover the entire beneficiary population.

In addition, the Air Force has developed a schedule with a priority for mission critical and operational personnel, for people considered "high risk" (older than 65 years, or possessing chronic, high risk medical condi-



Photo by Mrs. Sarah Bloch

Tech. Sgt. Susan Long receives her flu shot Wednesday afternoon.

tions), followed by dependents or family members of a high risk individual, then all other military personnel and dependents.

Children aged 6-months-old and older can get flu shots at the base clinic. Women in their second or third trimester of pregnancy can also receive flu shots.

If you have any questions related to immunization programs, please contact Immunizations at your earliest convenience.

For details, call Staff Sgt. Monica Malone, 319th MDOS, at 747-5451.

News Briefs

AFPC

The Enlisted Quarterly Assignment Listing for overseas assignments for July through September 2004 cycle is available.

Individuals need to work through their military personnel flights to update their preferences by Thursday. Airmen will be notified of their selection by mid-December.

People can view the lists from the AFPC home page at www.afas.afpc.randolph.af.mil/enlisted/enlisted.htm, or at local MPFs.

OSC news

Donations are now being accepted for the Grand Forks Officers' Spouses' Club third annual Grand Forks Mercantile Auction.

Proceeds go to charity including the base and surrounding communities. All gift baskets, specialty items and services are welcomed.

For details, call Mrs. Julie A. Martin, auction chairperson, at 594-9298.

The auction is scheduled for Nov. 21 at the Northern Lights Club ballroom. The silent auction starts at 6 p.m., and the live auction starts at 8 p.m. Tickets for this event cost \$5, and it is open to

the entire base community. For details, call Mrs. Jacque Davis at 594-3972.

The OSC is also currently selling raffle tickets at the commissary, base exchange and WalMart for \$2 apiece. Items to be raffled include two tickets to the University of North Dakota men's hockey game Dec. 12 and a quilt with quilt hanger. The raffle will be held at the auction.

For details, call Mrs. Angela Fogarty at 594-9504.

Snow removal

Winter is here, which means it is now time to do your part in snow removal.

The new base snow removal contractor, Schmitz, Inc., is responsible for removing snow from base streets and parking lots.

They are available 24 hours a day and seven days a week to handle any base street or parking lot snow removal issue.

Shmitz, Inc., asks base members to park in the clean areas of a parking lot so they can clean the areas where snow has to be removed.

Anyone with questions or concerns can call the snow removal hotline at 594-8985.

Storm Media Listing

In case of inclement weather, refer to television stations KVLV (Channel 11), KXJB (Channel 4) or WDAZ (Channel 8), or radio stations KCNN (1590 AM), KJKJ (KJ108 - FM), KQHT (Magic 96.1 FM), KYCK (97.1 FM), KNOX (1310 AM/94.7 FM), KKXL (1440 AM/XL 93 FM), or KFJM (89.3 FM/1370 AM).

For on-base personnel, Channel 3 will have an over-ride message with storm-related information.

The base weather line is 747-4387, and the base snow line is 747-4601.

Advent Family Night

The Protestant Chapel community will host Advent Family Night Nov. 23 in the front gym of Eielson School. This event will begin at 5 p.m. with a potluck supper. The whole family will then enjoy an evening of Thanksgiving and Christmas craft making.

For details, call Mrs. Carol Shower at 747-3071.

NAHM Luncheon

Everyone is invited to the the Native-American Heritage Month luncheon Thursday from 11:30 a.m. to

1 p.m. at the Northern Lights Club. The guest speaker will be Professor Gregory Gagnon, University of North Dakota Department of Indian Studies.

The event also features a guest performance. The luncheon will focus on Native American entrees.

Cost is \$7.78 for club members and \$9.78 for non-members.

For details and to pre-registar, call Senior Airman Cristina Moreland at 747-3865.

Pancake Breakfast

The base Chief's Group will be sponsoring a pancake and sausage breakfast Thursday from 6 to 9 a.m. at the Prairie Rose Chapel Annex.

Cost is \$3 per ticket. To get tickets, contact any chief on base.

For details, call Chief Master Sgt. Ray Crawford at 747-3654.

CFC Victory Luncheon

The end of the Combined Federal Campaign will be celebrated with a luncheon at the Northern Lights Club Nov. 21at noon. The cost is \$7.20 for members and \$9.20 for non-members.

For details, call 1st Lt. Aaron Sayler at 747-4139.

Top soldier talks Army transformation

By Mrs. Cynthia Bauer
Air Mobility Command Public Affairs

ANAHEIM, Calif. – “I’d just like to tell you right up front and declare I am a joint officer, who happens to be in the Army, who happens to be the Chief of Staff of the Army right now,” said Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker.

Gen. Schoomaker provided the closing address about Army transformation and joint interoperability Nov. 1 at the 35th Airlift/Tanker Association convention here Oct. 30 through Nov. 2.

The Army Chief of Staff said the relationship of the Army to the airlift and tanker community is one of the “most important relationships that we have.” The 31-year career soldier said his first personal relationship with the airlifters dates back to the winter of 1948 during the Berlin Airlift, when he and his mother flew out of Berlin’s Tempelhof airport into Frankfurt.

The chief talked about Army transformation, with the goal of a more agile force, with more brigades and smaller units, yet keeping the service’s campaign quality. The goal is to build the Army’s objective force, the future combat structure. To guide transformation, Gen. Schoomaker developed 15 focus areas, three of which he called “incredibly important for what we do together.”



Photo by Master Sgt. Bill Kimble

Army Chief of Staff Gen. Peter J. Schoomaker discusses Army transformation and joint interoperability Nov. 1 at the 35th gathering of the Airlift/Tanker Association. The A/TA convention ran from Oct. 30 through Nov. 2 in Anaheim, Calif.

“The first,” he said, “is a focus on the joint and expeditionary mindset.”

He said the Army will continue to have its heavy forces, to provide the capability to “slug it out” in a campaign. “The campaign quality is going to be there, it’s the joint and expeditionary we have to work on.”

He said the nation underestimated the signs of the threats emerging through the last decades, as the Cold War faded into history. He listed events from the failed Desert One rescue of American hostages in Iran in 1980 through the Beirut and Khobar Towers and American embassy bombings through the bombing of the USS Cole in 2000.

“You have to ask yourself, what did the United States do about any of that? What did we do to send any kind of message, other than we threw rocks from a long distance at people, who, quite frankly, (weren’t impressed) a whole hell of a lot,” he said. “And we ended up with 9-11 on our hands and wonder how we got there.”

Gen. Schoomaker said his strategy for the Army is to be more proactive.

“We’re going to move before the other guy moves, and we’re going to reach out and touch him at his place, not ours ... We’re going to have to be strategically more agile,” he said.

The key, he said, is to work more closely in the joint arena, to move toward joint interdependence.

He called the first war in Iraq “component warfare deconflicted at the joint level. It was not joint warfare in the context of what we did in Iraqi Freedom, which I would call joint interoperability.”

He said forces were much more capable because of shared responsibility among the components for battle command, and command and control for special operations and conventional forces which resulted in an aggressive plan, fewer forces and more agility on the battlefield.

Gen. Schoomaker, who is a former commander-in-chief of U.S. Special Operations Command, said air mobility provided critical support to the joint force, from inserting forces from long distances into Afghanistan to refueling helicopters to extend their range.

“If you’re talking about operational maneuvers at strategic distances, hundreds of thousands of miles, you’ve got to have airlift to do it, especially in the timeframes we’re talking about,” he said.

How to achieve an expeditionary force while maintaining the campaign qualities of the Army leads to the next focus area of modularity. That means smaller brigades, smaller units within.

Gen. Schoomaker equated the current difficulty in fielding divisions with being paid each month in \$100 bills.

“(What if) you wanted to go to the Dairy Queen and buy a hamburger and pay for it with the \$100 bill, what would you get back? A bunch of change,” he said. “Let’s say you went somewhere else to buy something, and you didn’t have enough change, you’d have to spend another \$100 bill.”

Gen. Schoomaker said in smaller conflicts, the divisions are left with “change” the Army can’t combine for another conflict. He said the key to being expeditionary is to be able to do the work in smaller units, but have the ability to aggregate them for a campaign.

“So, we have to pay ourselves in \$20 bills,” he said. “So if we have a \$60 fight, we can put three \$20 bills together. But if we have an \$18 or \$20 fight, we have a unit that’s capable of a better integration (with other forces) and a higher level of operation.”

Modularity, he said, will require a different way of thinking for the air mobility community. He said moving smaller units, keeping them with their weapon systems and preserving unit integrity would be challenging, but necessary for combat effectiveness.

“What it means is that we are going to work together in much closer ways so that we can take advantage of this enormous strategic mobility that you provide,” he said.

The general said the Air Force is helping the Army transform through the evolving ability of the C-17 Globemaster III to land in the dark with crews qualified on night vision goggles on unimproved strips, as well as improvements to navigation and communication systems.

The last focus area the Army Chief of Staff discussed was networking.

“It’s becoming increasingly important that we must be able to interact on the battlefield much differently than we previously have,” said Gen. Schoomaker.

He said the Army is making the leap from earth-based communications to space-based links. “It’s clear that terrestrial (communications) concepts are not sufficient to keep up with formations on the move.”

The general said the Army is also increasing their network connectivity within the joint arena.

The general said there’s a new understanding of the marriage of mobility and the Army’s jointness and modularity to meet the strategy of getting out ahead and dealing with things earlier and more quickly in the conflict at greater distances from the United States. He said we can’t repeat the problems of the recent past.

“This is not the kind of problem we can continue to hope against hope, and continue to have a strategy of trying not to lose. This has got to be a transition into what the strategy actually is – to defeat (enemy) capabilities long before they form,” said Gen. Schoomaker.



Base chapel

CATHOLIC:

Mass: 9 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Weekday Mass: 11:30 a.m. Monday, Wednesday and Thursday, Sunflower Chapel.

Reconciliation: 8:30 to 8:45 a.m. Sunday, or by appointment, Sunflower Chapel.

CCD: 10:45 a.m. at Twining Elementary.

Adult education, sacramental programs: Call Mrs. Jane Hutzol at 747-3073.

PROTESTANT:

Traditional worship: 10:30 a.m. Sunday, Sunflower Chapel.

Contemporary worship: 6 p.m. Sunday, Prairie Rose Chapel.

Sunday School: 9 a.m., Eielson Elementary.

Protestant youth of the chapel: 4 to 5:45 p.m. Sunday, youth center.

Men of the Chapel bible study: Noon Monday, Prairie Rose Chapel conference room.

Young adults: 6 p.m., Chaplain Swain's home. For details, call 747-6468.

JEWISH:

For details, call Synagogue B'nai Israel at 775-5124.

RUSSIAN/EASTERN ORTHODOX:

For details, call Dr. Levitov at 780-6540.

MUSLIM, BUDDHIST, OTHER:

For details, call 747-5673.



Base theater

Today, 7 p.m.

The School of Rock (PG-13)

Dewey Finn (Jack Black) just got fired from his own rock band. To make matters worse, his roommate (Mike White) is being hounded by his girlfriend (Sarah Silverman) to get Dewey to cough up the rent money he owes. What's a guy to do? In this case, Dewey pretends to be his roommate to make some extra bucks substitute-teaching.

Saturday, 7 p.m.

Out of Time (PG-13)

A small-town cop, Matt Lee Whitlock (Denzel Washington), has a torrid affair with a woman (Sanaa Lathan) married to an abusive NFL quarterback and falls so in love with her that he's convinced that one criminal act can allow them to run away together. But soon Whitlock is suspected of murder, and the detective assigned to the case is his estranged wife (Eva Mendes).

Nov. 21, 7 p.m.

Intolerable Cruelty (PG-13)

Nov. 22, 7 p.m.

Under the Tuscan Sun (PG-13)

Tickets: \$1.50 children, \$3 adults
For details, call 747-3021/6123.

News

AMC begins new licensing program for net access

SCOTT AIR FORCE BASE, ILL. – In order to receive or maintain an account on the Air Mobility Command computer network, all AMC personnel will be required to complete a new training course by Feb. 13.

The Network User Licensing course, which is offered through Smart-Force Web site at <https://usaf.smartforce.com>, replaces the Security Awareness Training and Education program many network users are familiar with.

The program allows AMC to comply with Department of Defense regulations that requires all users to complete basic computer training before accessing a DOD network.

It consists of a brief tutorial on computer and network issues and a 23-question multiple-choice test at the end.

Once all AMC personnel have completed the initial training, it will become an annual requirement to maintain user accounts.

According to AMC officials, this will ensure all users are trained on current information assurance issues and that they remain vigilant for computer network defense.

Questions about the new training should be directed to unit workgroup managers, or the base Information Assurance Office at 747-3495.

(Information courtesy Air Mobility Command News Service)

OSI examines forensic sciences

Workshop gives Air Force special agents tools to be successful

By Mrs. Jillian K. Speake

Air Education and Training Command Public Affairs

RANDOLPH AIR FORCE BASE, Texas – More than 120 criminal investigators worldwide attended the annual Air Force Office of Special Investigations Workshop here Nov. 3 to 7 to share ideas, technology and expertise.

Although criminal investigators were the target audience, OSI agents were asked to invite anyone on their installation or any of their local contacts who would benefit from the training.

The different police officers and detectives from all over the United States who attended helped the workshop provide a liaison opportunity between the OSI agents, medical specialists, legal professionals and the civilian community.

“I would say the vast majority of our investigations that are run in OSI are going to involve, to some degree, another investigative agency, be it local, state or federal, so having those working relationships is going to increase what we can do and what we can provide... in the final product,” said Special Agent Julie Lecea,

forensic sciences consultant in OSI Detachment 401 here. It’s valuable for us to have these connections so we know how other agencies can help us and they know how we can help them,” she said.

The workshop also provided forensic science training to criminal investigators by having experts in various fields talk about their specialty.

“Some of the (experts) we have here are the guys who literally wrote the book on all these different topics, and we’re very lucky to have them come out and speak to us,” Mrs. Lecea said. “Our goal was to bring their expertise to the students and have them teach how their science can come to bear on any of our investigations.”

Conference topics included child abuse investigations, forensic anthropology, entomology, crime scenes involving weapons of mass destruction and asphyxia and sex-related deaths.

Other topics included drug testing, shaken-impact syndrome and various types of wounds.

The students are not the only ones who learned from the experts. Mr. Marshall Littleton, a special agent with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and

Explosives, who spoke on the evolution of fire, also took away valuable information.

“I have been thoroughly impressed with the speakers brought in,” Mr. Littleton said. “Each one of them, in their individual scientific disciplines, has given me the opportunity to add one more tool to my investigative toolbox.

“They have given me the opportunity to broach a subject from a little different perspective because I didn’t realize that expertise even existed.”

Criminal investigators refer to the different tools they have in their “toolbox” to help solve crimes, Mrs. Lecea said.

Investigators constantly add new tools, techniques, databases, resources and technology that can help solve cases.

“A criminal investigator, in my opinion, has to be a jack-of-all-trades,” Mrs. Lecea said. “You have to be able to get into any crime that has taken place and understand all the different players involved. Knowing how to put that (information) together will determine if you’re successful or not. Essentially, we’re giving them the tools to do that.”

Air Force leads HIV/AIDS course

By Staff Sgt. Don Nelson

Air Force Print News

SAN ANTONIO – International medical and military leaders representing nearly 12 countries, gathered here Nov. 3 to 7 to discuss awareness of HIV and AIDS and its impact to the military worldwide.

The third annual course was held by Defense Institute for Medical Operations officials from Brooks City-Base, Texas.

The strategic planning and policy development course is designed to promote a sharing of new ideas and case studies on prevention, care and control of the disease, officials said.

Maj. (Dr.) Brian Agan, Wilford Hall Medical Center HIV program director and course developer, emphasized the importance of bringing HIV and AIDS experts together.

“We want to identify the key components of knowledge that people need to have in order to effectively structure pol-

icy to address HIV in the military,” Maj. Agan said.

The HIV infection rate in many other countries is significantly higher than the United States, institute officials said. Having a working relationship with leaders from other nations and a course like this helps build better awareness and hopefully increases prevention in those countries, said Col. Kerrie Lindberg, institute director.

A major focus and objective of the institute’s efforts to address awareness of the disease is force protection, particularly in countries that are hardest hit with HIV and AIDS, Col. Lindberg said.

“As we deploy in to those areas, we will know what that country has in place as far as HIV and AIDS,” she said. “If we go in there to assist with a disaster, we will know what types of issues to be aware of.”

Working together with foreign military leaders also was a large part of the confer-

ence. An address given by Kenyan Maj. Gen. J. M. Mutwii highlighted the efforts being made to fight the spread of HIV and AIDS in Kenya.

Many countries in Africa deal with infection rates in the military as high as 40 percent, Gen. Mutwii said.

“The enemy is not the person with the disease, but the virus within them,” Gen. Mutwii said.

The stigma associated with HIV and AIDS took center stage for a day when a panel of former and current active-duty airmen with HIV sat on a panel together to speak about their experiences.

“We wanted to address the stigma of HIV with direct firsthand knowledge from people in the military living with the disease,” said Col. (Dr.) Matt Dolan, institute chief of medical operations. “Having these stories told to the conference attendees really sent a message about how (the U.S. military) deals with infected troops.”

Currently, nearly 150 airmen with HIV serve on active duty and many have remained in their original job, Maj. Agan said.

Even though there is a very low rate of incidence of HIV in the military, the goal is still zero, he said.

In 2002, President George W. Bush declared the HIV and AIDS a threat to the strategic interests of the United States.

The doctrine calls for using the military as an integral part of engagement of the problem worldwide.

“This course allows the military to fulfill the doctrine that the president has dictated,” Col. Dolan said.

Because the effects of high HIV rates erode the government of stable countries, the concern is that they could collapse and become failed states unless the destructive effects of the disease are addressed head on, he said.

Major terror war feat is liberating 51 million

By Mr. Jim Garamone

American Forces Press Service

WASHINGTON – The only “exit strategy” for U.S. forces in Iraq is success, but the coalition is well on its way to achieving that aim, Defense Secretary Donald H. Rumsfeld said today.

Sec. Rumsfeld spoke on the CBS and Fox News morning shows for the Veterans’ Day observance. He said success in Iraq is defined as turning sovereignty back to a duly-elected, representative government.

Part of that is the Iraqis taking responsibility for their own security, he said, and the secretary stressed that Iraq is now the largest contributor to security forces in the nation – more than 130,000 members of the police, the Civil Defense Corps, the Border Guard, the facilities protection service and the new Iraqi army.

But Sec. Rumsfeld said coalition forces will remain in Iraq and help bring security to the nation. He said the enemy is changing its tactics and the coalition leadership is responding.

More than 90 percent of the attacks against coalition and Iraqi targets are centered in the Baathist Triangle area delineated by Baghdad, Ar Ramadi and Tikrit, the secretary explained.

“The military leadership there is constantly adjusting the techniques and

procedures and tactics that they use to suit the security situation on the ground,” he said.

He stated that commanders are making changes and that any capability they need would be available to them.

Sec. Rumsfeld said the major accomplishment of the war on terrorism to date has been the liberation of 23 million people in Iraq and 28 million people in Afghanistan.

He said the Taliban in Afghanistan stunted that country’s people, and the regime in Iraq was particularly vicious.

“We saw videotapes of them cutting off people’s hands and fingers, and chopping off their heads, and throwing them off the tops of buildings, and cutting off tongues,” he said. “Those people are now free and liberated from that regime.”

Still, the secretary said, Iraq remains a dangerous country and the coalition must be prepared for a “difficult, long, low-intensity conflict we’re going to have to work our way through.”

How the coalition proceeds operationally is up to the battlefield commanders, the secretary said.

“I’ve got a lot of confidence in them,” Sec. Rumsfeld said. “They are convinced we’ve got the right force levels and the right types of forces.”

OSC, ESC offer scholarships

The Officers’ Spouses’ Club and the Enlisted Spouses’ Club are offering scholarships to outstanding high school seniors, base education center students, and military spouses who plan to attend an accredited college or university in the fall of 2004.

The applicants must be dependents of military members, active duty or retired, and in the Grand Forks Air Force Base or Cavalier Air Station areas. Scholarship monies are needed for books, tuition and educational fees for one academic year of enrollment.

Last year the OSC and ESC award-

ed \$9,300 to scholarship honorees, and hope to award a similar amount this year. The monies awarded each year come from local donations and base thrift shop sales. The applications are to be postmarked no later than March 3, 2004.

An awards banquet for scholarship recipients will also be held on base, May 4, 2004, at The Northern Lights Club starting at 6 p.m.

For specific requirements, guidelines, and applications, contact the education center, area high school guidance counselor’s offices, or Mr. Joe Chine at (701) 594-2288.

Casualties are more than statistics; they're heroes

By 1st Lt. Rob Lazaro
Public affairs

Soldiers killed in action. You hear about it in the news all too often. It's usually a brief headline or a few seconds of news coverage.

One of the more recent tragedies on Nov. 2 left 17 dead and 26 injured when a CH-47 Chinook Army transport helicopter went down in Fallujah, Iraq, as a result of a suspected missile strike.

However, behind the 30 seconds of news coverage or five paragraphs of newsprint lays a deeper story – not just on how these soldiers died or were injured, but also a little about the actual people involved and how they lived.

"I'm saddened because I know a family hurts, and there's a deep pain in somebody's heart," said President George Bush in response to the deaths that day. "But I do want to remind the loved ones that their sons and daughters died for a cause greater than themselves and a noble cause, which is the security of the United States."

These were selfless individuals who know the meaning of sacrifice because they live it everyday. Away from their friends and family for months, they survived in an environment of constant threats and hazards.

This is what makes this particular story even more heartbreaking. The soldiers who were killed and injured on Nov. 2 were not en route on a mission to support the war effort, but instead were on their way to Baghdad International Airport for some much needed rest and recuperation time.

Some were heading for four days of leisure away from the combat zone, while others had the much sought after seats for a two-week environmental morale leave back to the states for a visit with friends and loved ones. It was a joyous occasion for one soldier heading back to the states to his six-month-old daughter, and a sad occasion for another who was going on emergency leave to bury his recently deceased mother.

"They were all so excited," said

Chief Warrant Officer Teresita Lazaro, 3rd Armored Cavalry Regiment, regarding the mood of the troops before the two flights departed. "(They were) so young and excited to be returning home, I just had to give up my seat on the first helicopter to a young specialist and instead took a seat on the second helicopter, which was delayed."

The events that followed are described by Chief Lazaro as 'straight-out of a movie.'

"Our helicopter suddenly turned sharply and began firing its flares to draw away the incoming projectiles," said Chief Lazaro. "The skill of our pilots saved our helicopter from being hit, but the first group was not as fortunate."

Instead of arriving second at Baghdad International Airport for the rest and recuperation trip, her group would instead arrive first at the scene of a crash after the first helicopter was struck down by enemy fire.

"The scene was twisted metal and chaos," said Chief Lazaro. "You could-

n't even make out that the downed transport used to be a helicopter carrying our first group of soldiers."

This was when training and critical decisions were put to the test. Since this was a leisure flight, the second helicopter had to decide whether or not to attempt a rescue in hostile territory without weapons.

"We didn't even think twice about it," said Chief Lazaro. "We just started down to the scene, pulling bodies from the wreckage... knowing they would have done the same for us."

The second helicopter's ad hoc rescue team was able to pull all the soldiers from the first helicopter into safety within minutes of the crash, before fire engulfed the interior of the aircraft. Their quick thinking and actions saved many lives, which would have been lost if they had waited for additional support and rescue teams.

Afterward, exhausted from the rescue effort, they tended to the wounded, shed tears, and said prayers for the deceased.

Still in shock and disbelief, their return flight was solemnly quiet. The following weeks would include numerous memorial services, counseling sessions and media reports.

The tragedy was referred to as one of the deadliest days for Americans in Iraq since President Bush declared an end to major combat on May 1.

Nevertheless, it won't be long before it's overshadowed by some new tragedy, buried by a new scandal, or simply forgotten by the masses at large. For those who lived through it however, the story will stay with them for the rest of their lives.

It's more than a story of rising death tolls and political debates over U.S. involvement in Iraq. It's a story about people, family and friends, comrades and heroes. The sadness of the loss cannot be summed up in a 300-word story or "special news report."

Their story is honored and remembered on observances such as Veterans Day and Armed Forces Day, but they must be remembered beyond that. We must remember the sacrifices of all the men and women fighting in current and past wars each and everyday.



Photo by (Army) Specialist Timothy J. Belt

CH-47 Chinook helicopters – similar to the one shot down on Nov. 2 – are operational, supporting the war-effort worldwide. They provide transportation of troops, artillery, supplies and equipment to the battlefield. Other roles include medical evacuation, parachute drop, search and rescue, and firefighting.

Progress in Iraq as seen through an airman's eyes

By Staff Sgt. Scott T. Sturkol
United States Central Air Forces Public Affairs

OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM – The image of progress in Iraq has taken many turns in the months since coalition forces toppled the Saddam Hussein regime in late April.

The image we develop of the situation here from the things we see and hear, at least for me, has gone from one dimension to the next. It took actually coming here to get a better idea of what's happening in Operation Iraqi Freedom and what goes on behind the scenes.

Recently, I was part of a media trip that went to the two biggest cities in Iraq – Basra and Baghdad. During the trip, I saw some things I didn't think I'd see because my view was previously based on an outside perspective from what I've seen on television and heard from others. Now, I must say, I have a whole different perspective.

First stop – Basra

Basra, which is mainly under control of the British armed forces, is largely a Shiite community and has been fairly quiet as far as security issues are concerned. Our party spent one day there, first receiving some briefings before heading out on patrols with the 1st Battalion of the Queen's Lancashire of the British Army.

On the patrol, we first stopped at the older section of town, known as Old Basra. Our convoy stopped, and the British immediately took their helmets off and started their walk.

One of the British soldiers was surrounded by Iraqi children smiling and talking with him as soon as he stepped off his armored vehicle. Soon, all of us who got out to walk were surrounded by children – it was a wonderful sight.



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Iraqi police recruits learn police tactics from a British Army military policeman at a training facility for "elite" police force recruits in Basra. The facility is operated by the British Army.

I was carrying a camera, and like most camera hams, the children I came across wanted their photo taken, and I obliged. As we progressed through for what was about a 10-minute hike through alleyways and old roads plus a busy marketplace, I felt perfectly comfortable in what we were doing.

The British taught me how to say "Peace be with you" in Arabic – "Assalam'alaikoom." When we walked, we would say that phrase and shake hands with many Iraqis, after which you place your right hand over your heart – symbolizing friendship.

From that area, we drove through what's called "Shiite Flats," and stopped at another market and neighborhood. We also had Iraqi interpreters with us; the one with my truck was named Ahmed.

Ahmed spoke pretty good English and he wanted to know where my co-worker, Maj. Dave Honchul, and I were from.

We told him we were from the United States, and a big smile came across his face.

"We don't see many people from the United States here," he said. "Thank you to Mr. Bush for getting rid of Saddam."

You can say his statement was a bit powerful. After talking to him more, he told me the people in Basra are much happier than they were before. I think I know why, besides the removal of the former regime.

In one of our briefings from Lt. Col. Jorge Mendonca, the commanding officer of the 1st Battalion of the QL, residents of Basra are now receiving almost 24 hours of continuous electricity, and they were getting the basics of life in this city of one-and-a-half million people. Also, security started to get better when Iraqi police got back on the streets soon after the major part of the war was done.

"If we didn't get the police working, we were going to be in trouble," Col. Mendonca said. "We put the police out in the streets, and security started to work."

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Special Interest

– PROGRESS, from Page 11

Throughout the city, security was good, and you could see it. One of our stops was also at a training facility for what one British soldier told me was an “elite Iraqi police force.” At this police academy, British military police were teaching the recruits everything from crime scene investigation to dealing with the media, and coordinated response to an armed situation.

Before the day was done, our group stopped at the southern headquarters of the Coalition Provisional Authority where we interviewed Sir Hilary Synnott, CPA South director. He described what the city was like before and said many infrastructure areas were neglected by the former regime. He said a lot has been accomplished since they arrived, and they have two main goals – repair the things that need repairing, and get Iraqi management prepared so they can operate new equipment.

From what we saw that day, it was evident that Basra was making leaps and bounds every day toward progress.

Onward to Baghdad

By morning, our group boarded a C-130 and headed to Baghdad. It was a short flight to get to Iraq’s largest city of six million people.

Once we landed, our first stop was on the other side of the airport at the main terminal. Inside, there were shops open and Iraqis sitting and enjoying themselves.

We walked over to some other shops so the media with us could cite the progress in the cleaned up airport terminal, and a couple of Iraqi janitorial workers in the airport asked me to take their photo. They were holding an old Iraqi dinar that had Saddam’s picture on it. They smiled and gave thumbs down to Saddam.

Throughout the rest of that day, we were at the CPA headquarters in the “Green Zone.” The headquarters is in Saddam’s Baghdad Palace near the Tigris River.

There, we had continuous interviews with people covering a wide variety of topics dealing with progress in Iraq. We received a wealth of information, such as Iraq is now back up to pumping over two million barrels of oil a day, jobs are being created with the reconstruction projects, more than half the Iraqi civil

police force is on the job, and Iraq will soon have their own national privatized newspaper and television network aptly named “al-Iraqia.”

We also learned from Mr. Chris Mulligan of the U.S. Agency for International Development about aid being provided to the country. I bet you didn’t know that every day there are more than 100 projects of improvement being completed in Iraq, and more than 350 times every month, civilian planes carrying aid in terms of food, materials and other goods lands at Baghdad International Airport. That’s in addition to what the coalition brings in.

Much of the information we received that day was so extensive it would take a lifetime to tell. But, if you went into that day and those activities thinking anarchy and chaos ruled, you found out just the opposite. Nearly all Iraqi’s were working to better their lives, and the seeds to life improvement were planted.

That night we stayed at the Palestine Hotel outside of the Green Zone. I wasn’t too worried about it as the security around the downtown hotels was pretty solid with U.S. Army and Iraqi police working together to make the combined detail.

From the top of the hotel, you could see the traffic circle that once held a statue of Hussein. It’s the same spot where the world watch Saddam’s statue topple to the ground when Baghdad fell. The statue has since been replaced by a new sculpture made by an Iraqi artist.

The next day we paid a visit to the Baghdad Central Detention Facility, formerly Abu Ghraib prison. Outside and inside, there were workers repainting, rewiring, repaving and reconstructing the complex. More than a third of it was done, and the unique part of this complex was they now had a full time medical staff that tended to the prisoners. It’s not something they had before.

The prison also had an area completely fenced off – the prison’s former death chambers. It was an area that would spook you just by setting foot inside. There were gallows and a gas chamber, and it was a harsh reminder of the former regime.

All you have to do is look inside one of the small cells and have someone read you the Arabic writing to get a sense of what it was like. The former prisoners would write on the walls, “In



Photo by Staff Sgt. Scott Sturkol

Iraqi college students at the Al-Mustansiriyah University in Baghdad, Iraq, relax at a lounge area at the university. College students in Baghdad went back to school in mid-October and officials say they have had the highest enrollment ever this year.

memory of ...” The name they would write would be of a fellow cellmate who was being put to death. Fortunately, it’s a place that will never be used for that purpose again.

The rest of the day was more briefings that included a round-table of journalists who were mostly Iraqis. The Iraqi press corps is growing in Baghdad, and you could see it in this meeting they had. It was standing room only.

The next day, our group made a few more visits. First, we went to the newly renovated Iraq Ministry of Health building and then over to the Baghdad pediatric hospital.

For places that only months before had lost nearly everything to looting, they were back up and running and improving every day. In fact, there are more than 70 private hospitals up and running in Iraq now.

One other fact that bears the true understanding of the difference between a year ago and now is that in 2002, the former regime provided only \$16 million for health care. Since the fall of the regime, this year’s budget, starting July 1 for Iraq health care, jumps to \$210 million, and for next year, the budget will be more than \$942 million. Also since the fall of the regime, there have been no major public health problems.

Our last day in Baghdad brought us to the Al-Mustansiriyah University, which was back in session and bustling with students. Our group met with the president of the university who said things are improving and in time, things will be much better than they were

before.

As we walked the campus, we could see the renovated classrooms and ones that still need fixing. Eventually, like the university president said, his school will be fully improved and better than ever before. He cited that before, there were two student unions and both were related to the Ba’ath Party. Now there are dozens. He added that student enrollment has skyrocketed because there are many young Iraqis eager to learn. He also said many U.S. universities are already working with them on student exchange programs.

Meeting Mr. Bremer

Before our day was done, we met with the top civil administrator for Iraq – Ambassador Paul Bremer. Mr. Bremer cited improvements in the economy with the introduction of the new Iraqi dinar currency that does not have Saddam’s image on it.

He said many Iraqis are working again in contracting jobs, and as the rebuilding takes place people are getting happier. And he said security is better than most think it is.

“When I got here earlier this year, I used to sleep with earplugs so I didn’t hear the gun battles,” Mr. Bremer said. “That’s not the case anymore.”

Overall, he said things are improving fast, and the people want things to be better.

“My interpretation is that the vast majority of Iraqis want the coalition here,” Mr. Bremer said. “They want a democracy... and they want a free Iraq with a democratic government.”

Unwelcome homecoming

By Mr. Eugene E. Behr
U.S. Air Force veteran

Veteran’s Day. Not a year passes by without someone wanting to know what it was like in war.

There are many stories that have filled books, and there are many more that will never be published because those who can tell the stories will not as the remembrance brings nothing but horror.

One only needs to tune in the History Channel and watch interviews from wars past as most of those veterans tell stories with tears in their eyes and some so choked they can’t speak.

I’ll tell you a story about war that has yet to be heard by family or anyone close to me.

“You will wear this uniform with pride,” was part of a quote from basic training.

In December 1968, six months out of high school, my family was proud to see me off as I boarded the bus in St. Joseph, Mich., that would take me on a journey that would affect

me for the rest of my life.

My father was a World War II veteran and very proud of his son who was also going to become a veteran.

Voluntary enlistment in the U.S. Air Force, I thought, would be an easy way of not catching a bullet. Twenty years later, my theory proved correct. However, not all 20 years were without incident.

In 1968, the Vietnam War was the hottest game around, and for those of us in the Air Force, life was fairly easy until late 1969.

Travel orders for reassignment became a weekly venture. There were many of my friends back then that headed for the lush assignments such as Guam, Philippines, Japan, and then worse, Thailand and then the ultimate – Vietnam.

None of us were afraid to go as we knew it was our duty to serve our country. For those who did get orders for Vietnam, the “afraid factor” increased.

We all heard stories about the different bases in ‘Nam, and for the most part, danger was prevalent. One story

seemed to attach to my brain in a very odd way – watch out in the airports.

Any time we needed to travel on the airlines, we were required to wear our dress uniform. This never bothered me as I was proud to wear my uniform.

As I returned to Grand Forks from my hometown, saying goodbyes before my departure to Thailand, I had two incidents occur that have left a dark spot in my memory.

Walking through the terminal in Chicago’s O’Hare airport, a small group held me up, and one lady asked if I was in the Air Force. I smiled and proudly answered, “You bet I am!” She never said a word, but spit right in my face.

I didn’t do anything. I cleaned myself and moved on.

In Minneapolis, another layover for two hours, quietly reading a book in the waiting area and again spat on by another woman. Again, I did nothing.

I spent my time in Thailand and returned by military transport as far as San Francisco. Walking through the airport was the most humiliating day of my life. Proudly attired in my

blue dress uniform, I was accused of killing babies, women and children and supporting a war that was not right. I was spit on and at more times than I wish to remember. By the time I reached the departure gate, tears had washed away most of the spittle.

I still get tears in my eyes when I see the news reports of our returning troops from various war zones: Grenada, Iraq, Afghanistan and other places, when I see them lovingly treated as heroes, knowing that none of us Vietnam veterans were ever welcomed back with the same fanfare.

Am I proud of those guys who served our country in other conflicts? Absolutely. Is it hard to say the things I said? Yes. It still bothers me after all those years.

I know now what heartache those men and women suffered during World War II, seeing their friends shot up and blown apart, and knowing many of them still carry those memories silently.

War veterans have memories and stories; many are not good. How many of those stories will never be heard?

A meaningful exchange between soldiers

By Mr. John W. Brickzin
U.S. Army veteran

In the spring of 1942, I was notified that I would very soon be drafted into the U.S. Army.

I was a 22-year-old living with my folks on the farm. I had time to help with the spring planting before I had to leave, which was on June 11, 1942. That was also the birthday of the girl I planned on marrying.

A whole lot of us young guys left that day. We were told that it would only be for one year of training, and then we would be back.

It did not work out that way. I didn’t see home for three-and-a-half years.

After a few days in Fort Snelling, Minn., we were loaded on a train and sent to Camp Wheeler, Ga.

After three months, we were loaded onto a troop ship, and I became a member of Company G of the 2nd battalion of the 47th Regiment of the 9th infantry division. We were told that we were in a convoy of almost 800 ships going to invade Africa.

The only way we could get anything to eat was to stand in the chow line 24 hours a day. To avoid that, we ate mostly candy and other snacks from the post exchange. You can imagine what shape we were in to make an invasion.

Zero Hour was to be 4 a.m. We were four miles from shore, and all was quiet. I was one of the men in the first boatload to go down in the invasion barge.

Shortly after we were in the barge and away from the ship, a light tank with two barrels of gas strapped to it had been lifted out of the ship’s hold and was just starting to be lowered on the other side of the ship when it exploded. Fire was going up about 200 feet, lighting up all the other ships for the Germans to see.

The Germans let go at us with everything they had. Those of us who were left didn’t make it to shore until after 9 p.m. That’s when we found out how nasty war could get.

All the while in Africa, Gen. Patton had been our division commander. Old Blood and Guts, he was known as. The trouble was, he had more guts than his men had blood.



After about a week, we were relieved by another outfit so we could get replacements to bring our outfit back to full strength. We fought and pushed our way in from the west coast of French Morocco for several weeks, stopping at different times for more replacements, until we got to Kasserine Pass in the mountains. The Germans were really waiting for us there.

They pounded us with heavy shelling for several days and then came in and took everyone who was left as prisoners. I didn’t know it then, but I was lucky not to be captured, as they left me for dead – I was knocked out from the heavy artillery shelling.

After trying to figure out what happened and where I was, it took me several days of crawling and sneaking to find friendly forces again. I found a tank outfit and was with them for about a week when I was wounded the first time. I was taken to a field hospital, where a piece of shrapnel was removed that entered my face beside my nose and went in over the roof of my mouth.

It was about six weeks before I was shipped back to my outfit. The Germans withdrew to Sicily and Europe.

I was wounded a second time from a German booby trap, which is the same thing as a small land mine. I went to an English field hospital, then to an American

field hospital.

My outfit had gone on to invade Sicily. After that, they were shipped to England to await the invasion of France. It was there in England that I rejoined my outfit.

D-Day, June 6, 1944, finally came. My outfit was lucky not to be in on the first wave of the invasion. We went in the second wave, and that was bad enough. Gen. Eisenhower told us that in France, each man would get at least one hot meal a day. Well, that didn’t prove out, as three weeks after the invasion, we still hadn’t had a hot meal.

The biggest problem in the infantry was getting something to eat. At one time, we didn’t get anything to eat for three days. One time at a farmer’s house, we saw a wounded cow. We could see that the cow needed milking, so even though we were under fire, we managed to get the cow in the house and milked her in my helmet and drank the milk.

We were just relieving another outfit that was in the Battle of the Bulge when I was sent back to England after being wounded for the third time.

After several months, I was sent back to France, and on my way to rejoin my outfit, I was told that I had been through enough combat.

After receiving six Major Battle Stars, I was sent back to La Havre, France, and assigned to a port battalion.

After a number of months, the German army surrendered, and the war was over. I was sent to a center where troops waited to be shipped home. While there, I had six German prisoners assigned to me to load and unload trucks.

In October 1945, I arrived back in the United States. Our ship went right past the Statue of Liberty. I was discharged shortly after.

The girl I left behind was still waiting for me after not seeing her for three-and-a-half years. We were married the following January.

I will have to say that this ordeal was not easy for my parents, either. Three times they got a letter from the War Department. Two times they were told I was wounded in action, and one time I was missing in action.

They told me they built a bridge of prayers across the Atlantic for my return.

There was one very memorable time I shall never forget. Being that I was the only one in the company who could speak some German, I was always appointed to take the captured German prisoners back to headquarters.

We always had them lock their fingers behind their heads, but on one occasion, one prisoner had a real bad head wound. Although it was bandaged and still bleeding, he tried to obey my orders. I could see he was having a very hard time. I told him he could put his hands down, which he thanked me for. When we came to battalion headquarters, the commander told me to tell the ranking German to tell his men if they had any knives or anything like that to drop them in a pile.

I felt something brush against me and saw this German with the bad head wound slip his small pocket knife in my pocket. He said his mother sent it to him for his birthday and being that I’d done him a great favor, he wanted me to have it.

I shall always treasure that small knife and the meaningful favors exchanged between two soldiers.



Courtesy photo

The knife a German soldier gave Mr. John Brickzin following World War II as a sign of good faith.

The military wife’s prayer

By Mrs. Mary Becker

Dear Lord,

Give me greatness of heart to see the difference between duty and his love for me.

Give me understanding that I may know, when duty calls him, he must go.

Give me a task to do each day to fill the time when he is away.

And Lord, when he is in a foreign land, keep him safe in your loving hand.

And Lord, when duty is in the field, please protect him and be his shield.

And Lord, when deployment is long, please stay with me and keep me strong.

Falling from English skies

By Mr. Art Dobias
U.S. Army veteran

It was the morning of Jan. 10, 1945, somewhere in England. Each man went about his job the usual way, some not knowing it was their fatal flight.

Our bomb load was four 1,000-pound bombs instead of the usual six, as we were the chaff ship. We had just gotten airborne and were slowly gaining altitude.

I was standing at my usual position at the right waist gunner station looking out when the entire plane began to shudder like a living thing.

The engines were roaring their all it seemed, but we were losing altitude fast. I felt the treetops of a hedge beat against the belly as we just cleared. The next instant we struck.

I remember falling forward – then nothing. The next thing I saw was flame, flame all over the waist. I was lying where the lower ball turret had been. It was burning up and only one thing was on my mind – to get away and fast.



nothing until we walked into a farmhouse. The ball gunner bandaged my head.

Our pilot, co-pilot, engineer and tail gunner were killed. The bombardier and navigator were severely injured.

It seemed like a dream, but the empty bunks in our barracks proved it was not. We attended the funerals of our fellow crewmen, whom we learned to love as brothers.

And, I feel it is only by the grace of God that we escaped with our lives.

I got up and ran back to the waist door. The lower ball gunner and radio man were trying to get it open, but it was jammed. I do not know how, but we got it opened and stumbled out into the snow.

After this, I remember

Community

Heir Force

Isaiah Amadeus Cordova, 8 pounds, 1 ounce boy, was born Aug. 19 to Senior Airman Chris and Laura Cordova, 319th Communications Squadron.

Lindsey C. Redburn, 7 pound, 2 ounce girl, was born Oct. 7 to Tech. Sgt. Charles and Becky Redburn, 905th Air Refueling Squadron.

Faith Kara Latvis, 8 pounds, 1.1 ounce girl, was born Oct. 8 to staff sergeants Timothy and Carmen Latvis, 319th Aircraft Maintenance Squadron.

Brennen John Quick, 6 pounds, 4.5 ounce boy, was born Oct. 9 to Staff Sgt. Frederick and Jodi Quick, 319th Security Forces Squadron.

Annalicia Marie Martinez, 6 pounds, 4.5 ounce girl, was born Oct. 17 to 1st Lt. Steve and Salina Martinez, 906th Air Refueling Squadron.

Riley Jane Ruebusch, 5 pounds, 14.5 ounce girl, was born Oct. 21 to Staff Sgt. Dun and Amanda Ruebusch, 319th Mission Support Squadron.

Vivianne Laura Mayerhofer, 5 pounds, 10 ounce girl, was born Oct. 22 to Senior Airman Michael and Rosemaria Mayerhofer, 319th AMXS.

Andrew James Hebekeuser, 6 pounds, 9.5 ounce boy, was born Oct. 23 to 1st Lt. Nicklas and Gretchen Hebekeuser, 911th Air Refueling Squadron.

Jessica Ann Marie Mosier, 6 pounds, 5 ounce girl, was born Oct. 23 to Senior Airman Adam and Misty Mosier, 912th Air Refueling Squadron.

Leah Rae Amig, 7 pounds, 13 ounce girl, was born Oct. 23 to Capt. Gregory and Michele Amig, 912th ARS.

Ryanne Janae McCormick, 6 pounds, 11 ounce girl, was born Oct. 25 to senior airman James and Jessica McCormick, 905th ARS and 911th ARS.

Cole Patrick Honeycutt, 8 pounds, 1.2 ounce boy, was born Oct. 30 to Staff Sgt. Todd and Teresa Honeycutt, 319th AMXS.

Alexis Marcella Zafke, 7 pounds, 9 ounce girl, was born Oct. 31 to Staff Sgt. Robert and Angela Zafke, 905th ARS.

Today

TURKEY TAKE-AWAY:

Let the Northern Lights Club fix your Thanksgiving dinner.

The dinner serves a family of four to five people and includes a 12-pound turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and pumpkin or apple pie.

Cost is \$49.95. Family members whose spouses are deployed will receive \$5 off.

Dinners can be picked up between 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. Thanksgiving Day.

To order, visit the Northern Lights Club, or call 747-3392, by Thursday.

FRAME CLASSES: The skills development center will be offering two framing classes. Dates are Tuesday to Thursday from 1 to 4:30 p.m and Saturday from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.

Both classes are \$20 plus supplies. Please bring in a single picture or print to frame. Pre-registration is required.

PASTA BAR: The Northern Lights Club offers a “pasta bar” along with the day’s hot entree during lunch from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers the “Hunters Special” from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Community

– Continued from page 16

Saturday

TEEN HOT SHOT COMPETITION: There is a teen “hot shot” competition at the youth center for ages 13 to 18 at 8 p.m. Cost is \$1.

CLUB KARAOKE: The Northern Lights Club offers Karaoke from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m.

CLUB DANCING: The Northern Lights Club offers dancing from 10 p.m. to 3 a.m. to ‘club mix’ music with “DJ ‘C.’”

YOUTH GALAXY BOWLING: Register at the youth center for galaxy bowling at Dakota Lanes for ages 9 to 12 from 6 to 8 p.m. and ages 13 to 15 from 8 to 10 p.m.
Cost is \$2.50 per hour and 75 cents for shoe rental.
The youth center needs 10 partici-

pants to hold this event. Register at the youth center to attend.

BASKETBALL LEAGUES: The youth center is holding “three-on-three” basketball leagues.
Participants pick their own teams of three and participate each Saturday.
The program is divided into two sessions: September and October, and November and December, with a total games-won champion being crowned for each session.

Games begin at 7 p.m. for ages 9 to 12 and 9 p.m. for ages 13 to 18.
Youth must register 15 minutes prior to game time.

Sunday

FOOTBALL FRENZY: The Northern Lights Club invites everyone to watch football and win prizes.
SUNDAY BRUNCH: The Northern Lights Club offers Sunday brunch from

from 10:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m. Cost is \$3, and there is a Members First discount for club members.

Monday

FAMILY FUN NIGHT: The youth center is holding a “family fun night” with a potluck starting at 6 p.m.
This event is specifically targeting those families with children 9- to 18-years-old (all family members may attend).

ICE RINK: Ice rink volunteers are needed. Volunteers can attend an informative meeting Monday or Nov. 19 at 11 a.m. at the youth center.
Volunteers will be icing and maintaining the base ice rink behind the youth center during the winter months.
For details, call Mrs. Sally Fuller at 747-3152.

ESC MEETING: The Enlisted Spouses Club will be meeting at the community activities center at 7 p.m.

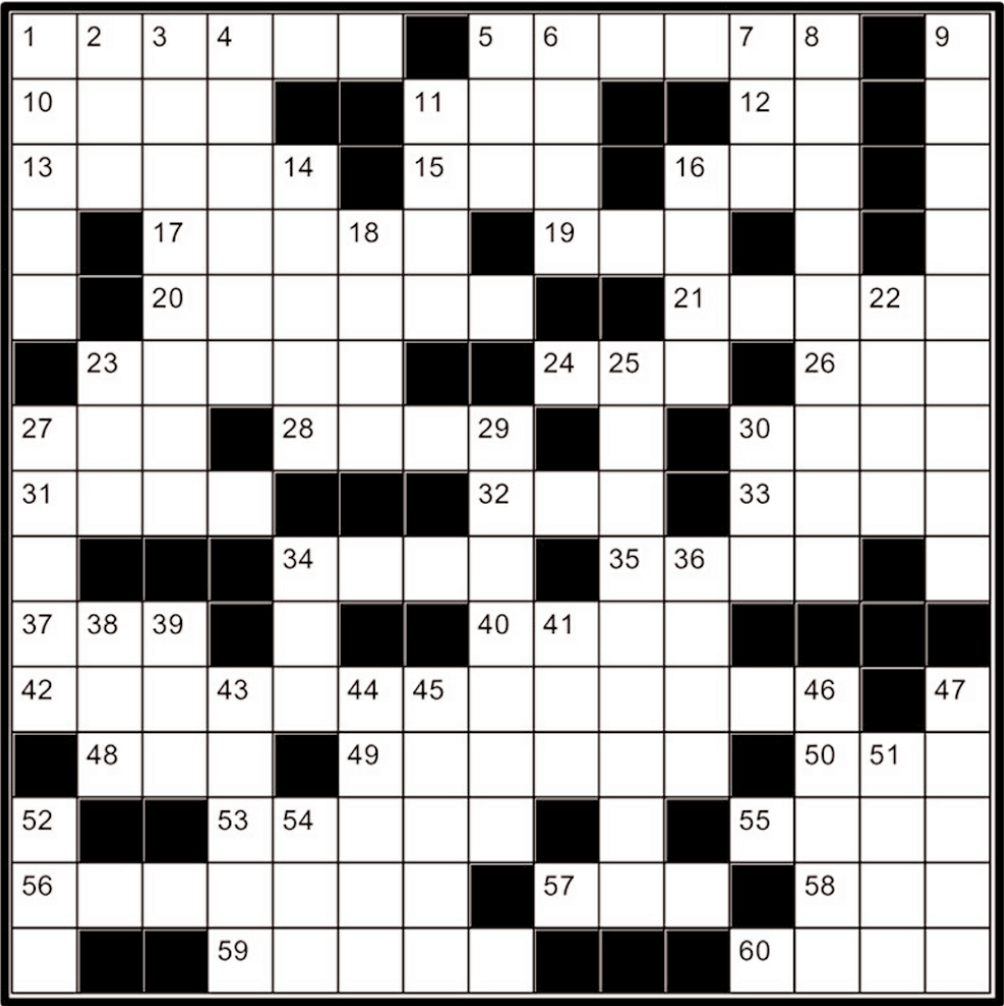
Participants can bring a pie if they like. Fall centerpieces will be made in time for Thanksgiving.
Childcare and children’s crafts have been scheduled.
For details, call Mrs. Tracy Carter, ESC president, at 747-4518, or Mrs. Sarah Bloch, ESC secretary, at 747-5018.

Tuesday

PLANET PIZZA: There is a preteen Planet Pizza trip planned for Nov. 22 for ages 6 to 12.
Transportation departs from the youth center at 12:30 p.m. and will return around 4 p.m.
Youth need a signed parent permission slip, and the cost is \$10. Cost includes transportation, pizza and sodas. Game tokens and “Lazer Blast” are extra.
The youth center must have 15 participants signed up by Tuesday to hold this trip.

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Commentary



By 1st Lt. Tony Wickman, Alaskan Command Public Affairs

Happy Birthday USMC

Answers for this week’s Air Force Crossword will be published in next weeks *The Leader* Community section.

ACROSS

- 1. Part of the USMC emblem
- 5. Only Marine to win Navy Cross 5 times for gallantry/heroism
- 10. Egyptian river
- 11. Mongrel
- 12. Regarding (abbrev.)
- 13. Part of USMC emblem
- 15. USAF commissioning source (abbrev.)
- 16. Punch
- 17. Type
- 19. Quik-E-Mart owner on The Simpsons
- 20. Edge
- 21. Synthetic material
- 23. Former Soviet ruler
- 24. Mock
- 26. Delay
- 27. Even
- 28. Abbreviation for Elmendorf base
- 30. Urban Legend actress Alicia
- 31. Church altar
- 32. Actress ____ Margaret
- 33. New York district
- 34. Rip
- 35. Phoenix Coyote captain Shane ____
- 37. Former TV show ____-Haw
- 40. Indonesian paradise
- 42. USMC motto (two words)
- 48. Nordic instrument
- 49. Chooses
- 50. River in SW Sahara; Rio de ____
- 53. German cars
- 55. Canal connecting Mediterranean, Red seas
- 56. Marine who raised first US flag over foreign soil
- 57. Picnic crasher
- 58. Observe
- 59. Sovereigns
- 60. USMC Maj. Ross L. ____; Medal of Honor recipient for Haiti

DOWN

- 1. Saint
- 2. Zero
- 3. Hits
- 4. Palestinian city
- 5. Set
- 6. Major or Minor
- 7. Epoch
- 8. Anarchy
- 9. "Black Sheep" USMC flying ace who was awarded the MOH
- 11. Doctrine
- 14. Scary
- 16. Calendar month
- 18. Krabappel of The Simpsons
- 22. Vow
- 23. Pass (as in running)
- 25. Famous USMC general; CA base named for him
- 27. Trails
- 29. Girl toys
- 30. USAF bomb dump (abbrev.)
- 34. China chairman Mao ____ Tung
- 36. Baby and mineral
- 38. Snakelike fish
- 39. Flightless bird
- 41. USAF defense lawyers (abbrev.)
- 43. Joke
- 44. French surrealism artist
- 45. Toss
- 46. USMC famous composer/leader of "The President's Own"
- 47. Seeps
- 51. USMC 2LT Robert D. ____; Korean War MOH recipient
- 52. Cry
- 54. Cycle or form

Last week’s solutions

N		S	F	O	R		C	A	M	P	B	E	L	L
I	N	C	A		H		A			A	E	S	O	P
G	E	O	R	G	E		R	E	D	C	L	O	U	D
H	E	R	R	I	N	G	T	O	N		L			
T		E		V			O	N	A	G	E	R	S	
H	A	R	V	E	Y		N			R		E	T	C
O			E				S		N	A	V	A	J	O
R	E	A	R			O		M		B	I	P	O	D
S	A	C	A	J	A	W	E	A			I	S	E	E
E	R	T		A	W	E		T	R	E				T
			G	I	L		C	H	I	P	P	E	W	A
T	N	T					R	A		D	I	O	R	
R	O	E		C	L	A	R	K		C	R	E	E	K
I	R	A	H	A	Y	E	S				E			E
P	A	R		L	E	S			P	A	R	K	E	R

– Continued from page 17

Thursday

LAST DAY FOR TURKEY TAKE-AWAY:

Thursday is the last day to order your turkey dinner from the Northern Lights Club.

The dinner serves a family of four to five people and includes a 12-pound turkey, dressing, gravy, mashed potatoes, sweet potatoes, cranberry sauce, rolls and pumpkin or apple pie.

Cost is \$49.95. Family members whose spouses are deployed will receive \$5 off.

Dinners can be picked up between 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. Thanksgiving Day.

Place orders by calling the Northern Lights Club at 747-3392.

CLUB DINING: The Northern Lights Club offers steak night every Thursday from 5:30 to 8 p.m.

Choose from a 12-ounce rib eye for \$12.95, 8-ounce sirloin for \$10.50, or 20-ounce sirloin for \$13.75.

There will also be an 8-ounce charbroiled

chicken for \$9.50 offered for those who do not want steak.

Upcoming

MOONLITE TURKEY SHOOT: Come to Dakota Lanes Bowling Center Nov. 22 at 7 p.m. for the moonlite nine-pin-no-tap turkey shoot.

Cost is \$13 per person. Early registration is request-ed. Register at Dakota Lanes, or call 747-3050.

MALL OF AMERICA TRIP: Register by close of business Nov. 25 for outdoor recreation’s trip to the Mall of America Nov. 29.

Transportation departs from outdoor recreation at 5 a.m. and returns late the same evening.

Cost is \$20 per person, which includes transporta-tion only.

EARLY BIRD SPECIAL: There is an early bird ski trip planned to Buena Vista or Frost Fire, depending on weather and snow conditions, Nov. 29.

For details, ski rentals, or to register, call or visit outdoor recreation, 747-3688.

Sports



Photo by Airman Patrice Clarke

The Base Intramural Flag Football Champs are the CES-B team. Team members are Brent Crispen, Stephen Mower, Francis Bierman, Jonathan Boss, Dennis Garner, William Fry, Mathew Peterson, Craig Massey, Chad Campbell, Justin Haskamp and Rickey Hubley. The team ended the season 9 - 1 in regular season and 4 - 0 in the playoffs.

Fire fighters end flag football season with win over LRS B

By Airman Patrice Clarke
Public affairs

During the regular season of intramural flag football, the Logistic Readiness Squadron's B team could not be stopped, proving themselves with an impressive 10 - 0 season record. When it came to crunch time though, time to pull it together and bring up the big win, LRS-B just could not get a victory.

The Civil Engineering Squadron's B team took the Grand Forks Intramural flag-football Championship with a big win over LRS-B 33 - 6. Congratulations to the Fire Fighters